

JAMES STACY MURDOCK

James Stacy Murdock, son of Joseph Stacy and Elizabeth Hunter Murdock, was born December 8, 1861, at American Fork, Utah. His parents moved the family to Heber, Wasatch County, Utah, in 1862, where he lived a full life.

As a young man, he and his brother, Alva M., built and managed the first livery stable in Heber. They operated a freight line between Heber and the Uintah Basin



and carried the U. S. mail between Heber and Park City, Utah.

James always was a man of industry and foresight, an ardent sportsman and a builder for his community, as well as for himself. He was known throughout the West as one of its most prominent stockmen and wool-growers. Many people were employed in his various interests. He was civic-minded to the extent that at times he bore the expense of promoting issues he believed to be for the public good. The retaining of the Heber Light & Power Company for the community, being an example. The people of the city were about to sell the plant to the Utah Light & Power Company when he and his life-long friend, James W. Clyde, hired an electrical engineer to prove to the community what a valuable asset they possessed. The company is still owned by the city.

James played baseball, hunted and fished as hobbies, and being an ardent lover of horses, he bred and raced standard-bred horses for a time.

He held many public offices during his lifetime. He was elected sheriff in 1891, serving eight years. From 1893 to 1901 he held the position of County Fish and Game Commissioner. He was a director of the Bank of Heber City many years.

He married Dora Elizabeth, daughter of Thomas and Johanna Kirstine Nicol, on February 23, 1882, in the Salt Lake Endowment House. To this couple two sons and six daughters were born: Mrs. Charles E. (Josephine) Bronson, Alva Pierce, Curtis Thomas, Mrs. Thomas (Criss) Jones, Mrs. Lester D. (May) Greenwood, Mrs. Andrew J. (Hope) Mohr, Mrs. Durrel T. (Clara) Burningham, and Mrs. Eldon (Beth) Ritchie.

During the later part of her life, Dora

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was an invalid. The loving care James conferred on her and the children lives in the memory of his family and friends. She passed away on October 29, 1907.

On February 27, 1913, James married Violet McNiven, daughter of James and Lydia McNiven. She died May 25, 1933.

James was a big, genial man, a good friend and neighbor, always ready to contribute time and money to any worthy cause.

He passed away in Salt Lake City, January 12, 1936, and was buried in the family plot in Heber City Cemetery.

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